AMERICAN LEGION | MEMBERSHIP IMPACT REPORT
September 2026

VOICES

"Archie cannot change what happened to me, and I would never expect him to. What he can do is help change how I experience today. His presence provides grounding and reassurance. He can help create space around me when I need it and provide a steady, trained presence when my surroundings become overwhelming. Knowing he is beside me gives me greater confidence to enter environments that once required tremendous emotional preparation."

- ***Ninzel Rasmusson**, Air National Guard veteran and member of American Legion Post 140 in Riverton, Utah.*

29

Veterans who shared tributes about their service dogs in response to a callout during National Service Dog Month in September. Each submission, including the one from Ninzel Rasmusson, is **linked to this story**.

91,059

Emails sent to members of Congress via The American Legion's Grassroots Action Center in support of the Take Care of America's Veterans Act, as of Sept. 30.

6

Number of American Legion departments represented in a Legion Riders escort of fallen Rider Michael Haas from Des Moines, Iowa, to his home in Bentley, Kan.

$2,217,686,051

Amount in VA benefits secured for veterans in September thanks to free American Legion representation.

VOICES

"We want the largest numbers possible walking with us down a busy street that is used a lot in our community. When we have 100, 200, 300 people walking together with a Be the One flag, with an American flag . . . when people see that when they're driving by, they go, 'What is this Be the One thing?' It's a method of building awareness and spreading awareness."

*- **Cindy Hupke**, a member of American Legion Unit 66 in DeKalb, Ill., who coordinates **an annual event** that combines a walk with mental health awareness.*

180

The number of participants in DeKalb, Ill., Post 66's third annual Be the One Walk. The day-long event also included yoga, as well as various vendors and exhibits sharing information about nonprofit veteran mental health support and services.

40

Business owners, civic leaders, healthcare workers and others who attended a Be the One presentation by Indiana Legionnaire Tony Cross during a New Palestine Chamber of Commerce meeting.

11

The number of government agencies, nonprofits and other entities engaged in veterans mental health who took part in American Legion Auxiliary Unit 36's first Be the One expo in Des Plaines, Ill.

$319,735

Amount of scholarship money disbursed during the month of August to 107 recipients.

1,000

Miles walked by Steve Calhoun of Post 55 in Farmer City, Ill., during The American Legion's USA 250 Challenge. In September, he **shared his story**, including the final 250 miles in honor of his late brother.

1,036

VA benefit decision appeals for which dispositions were rendered by the Board of Veterans Appeals after free American Legion representation in August.

$17,479.43

Amount of National Emergency Fund grants distributed to a post in Indiana for flooding, and three individuals, two in Indiana and one for Washington state for wildfires.

17

U.S. Flag Code inquires fielded by the Americanism Division.

96

Pints of blood collected by the Red Cross during the drive at national convention in Louisville, Ky.

$95,500

Amount of grants from the Child Welfare Foundation distributed in September to three youth serving nonprofit organizations.

50

Eagle Scout certifications awarded during August by the Americanism Division.

20,080

Rounds of ceremonial ammo distributed through The American Legion National Security Division's military loan program, to go along with 46 rifles, 175 clips and two static displays to 27 posts in 19 departments.

$4,000

Amount of Temporary Finance Assistance grants that assisted two veteran families with minor children at home, thereby keeping the children in a stable environment.

9

Remains of POW-MIAs recovered by DPAA during the month.

39

Clubs that started registration for Junior Shooting Sports.